

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS**

GEORGE E. LEVELS,

Plaintiff,

LIBERTY MUTUAL,

Plaintiff-Intervenor

v.

**CANNONBALL EXPRESS, INC.,
d/b/a CANNONBALL EXPRESS
TRANSPORTATION, et al.,**

Defendants.

Case No. 05-cv-914-DRH

JACK COOPER TRANSPORT CO., INC.,

Plaintiff,

v.

**CANNONBALL EXPRESS
TRANSPORTATION, LLC,**

Defendant.

Case No. 06-cv-306-DRH

**SYLVIA DEVESE, as Personal Representative
and Administrator of the Estate of
STEPHEN O'BRYANT,**

Plaintiff,

v.

JACK COOPER TRANSPORT CO., INC.,

and GEORGE E. LEVELS,

Defendants.

Case No. 06-cv-524-DRH

ORDER

HERNDON, Chief Judge:

The Court has been advised by Magistrate Judge Clifford J. Proud that the parties have been unable to reach a settlement following a summary jury trial held before Judge Proud on September 7, 2007. Therefore, Judge Proud recommends, with the parties' consent, that these cases be consolidated for trial. The cases had previously been consolidated for discovery purposes only. The parties seek to consolidate this matter with two other like matters: *Cooper v. Cannonball Express, Inc.*, No. 06-cv-306-DRH and *Devese v. Levels*, No. 06-cv-524-DRH. The Court concludes, in its discretion, that all three actions present common questions of law and fact and that consolidation will promote judicial economy and the convenience of the parties. **See Fed. R. Civ. P. 42(a); *Fleishman v. Prudential-Bache Sec., Inc.*, 103 F.R.D. 623, 624-25 (E.D. Wis. 1984); *Bradley v. Soo Line R.R. Co.*, 88 F.R.D. 307, 309-10 (E.D. Wis. 1980).** Accordingly, the Court **CONSOLIDATES** these three cases for the remainder of this litigation. The Joint Motion to Consolidate for Purposes of Discovery and to Amend Scheduling Order remains in effect. Any additional motions shall be filed under this case, *Levels v. Cannonball*, No. 05-cv-914-DRH, which is the earliest-filed case.

The Final Pre-trial Conference will be held on December 20, 2007 at 9:30 a.m. Furthermore, the Court **FINDS AS MOOT** Plaintiff-Intervenor Liberty Mutual's Motion to Continue Final Pre-trial Conference and Related Deadlines for Pre-trial Submissions. (Doc. 50.)

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Signed this 24th day of October, 2007.

/s/ _____ David R Herndon _____
Chief Judge
United States District Court